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EASTERN

F.O.  
371

1948

PALESTINE

FILE No. 3

.....

68527

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Reference:-  
**FO 371 / 68527**

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1948

E

E 3

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PALESTINE

1 JAN

Registry Number

E 3/3/31

TELEGRAM FROM

in Hourtown -

No.

Bernall

Dated

Beruit

Received in Registry

9264

31 Dec

1 Jan

The Muffli.

After 40/11 499 (E 12124/49/31) Muffli is still in Cairo is expected to return to Beirut shortly and has found that initiation of Arab irregulars in Palestine is being carried on through the committee re. the Muffli. The Arab League, though anxious to report any progress in Palestine, had been bound to make the operations of Palestine troops with arms and money. This has been done by the committee for the Arab League.

Last Paper.

12124/49/31 '47

(Minutes.)

Please give usual Palestine circulation

H.B. "

References.

68527

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 11/12/47 wa. 80.  
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M.I. 39.  
not  
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P.M.  
Jan 2

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

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Next Paper.

9/3/31

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Houstoun Boswall,  
No 924 D. 9.37 a.m. 31st December, 1947.  
31st December, 1947. R. 10.04 a.m. 31st December, 1947

Repeated to Cairo, )  
Jerusalem, )  
B.M.E.O. )  
Bagdad, )  
Amman, )  
Jedda, )  
Damascus. )

S A V I N G E . . . . . 3  
I . . . . . AN

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 924  
of December 31st, REPEATED Saving to Cairo, Jerusalem,  
B.M.E.O. Bagdad, Amman, Jedda and Damascus.

SECRET.

Your telegram No. 799; Mufti.

Haj Amin is still in Cairo, but is expected to  
return to Beirut shortly.

2. Lebanese Prime Minister in the course of  
conversation I had with him on December 27th, said  
that activities of the Arab irregulars in Palestine  
depended on Arab Higher Committee i.e. the Mufti. The  
Arab League, though anxious "to respect our presence  
in Palestine" had been bound he said to come to the  
assistance of Palestinian Arabs with arms and money.  
The implication was that the Arab Higher Committee had a  
free hand at the present stage with the approval of the  
Arab League.

3. Riad Bey added that in spite of reports  
to the contrary, the ex-Mufti enjoyed great influence  
and prestige amongst Arabs in general, as well as in  
Palestine, particularly outside the towns.

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# E

4

1948

PALESTINE

E 280

7 JAN

Registry Number

E 280/151

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

11/25/147  
15.12  
7 Jan

*In reply.*

*For the minutes received on 27/11  
(11/27/51) received the Dept. of  
the matter with no success and the  
no reply in view of the Dept.  
concerning the Dept. Board to return to a further  
in the documents.*

Last Paper.

E 9

(Minutes.)

References.

*15/1*

*beginning*

*H.B. 127*

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

*8, 80.  
Jan. 1948*

(Action completed.)

*[Signature]*

(Index.)

*[Signature]*

Next Paper.

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20

entire 5

280 British Legation,  
Damascus.

119/55/47. JAN 17th Dec., 1947.

Dear Burrows.

With reference to Mustun-Boswel's letter to you, No. 72/7/47 of the 27th November, about contact with Haj Amin el Husseini, I have discussed the matter with Fandas who considers that it would be if anything unwise, should Haj Amin return to Damascus, to make any attempt to get in touch with him here. We have a number of undesirable already in Damascus who are doing their best to inflame passions locally and in Palestine; Fawzi Qarawji, Dr. Amin alweiha and Izmet Darwanneh are cases in point. I am so far finding the Syrian Government unsympathetic to U.K. Government's request that they should restrain such people and on present information I feel that any exception here in Damascus to our attitude that Arab agitators are undesirable would weaken our case with the Syrians.

Yours sincerely  
P. H. Woodmead

P. H. Woodmead, Esq.,  
Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
LONDON, S. W. 1.

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Palestine  
EASTERN

E360 / G  
6

E 360 13 13  
31/G

Message from Grand Mufti of  
Jerusalem.

Mr Donaldson  
C.R. ~~India~~ Office  
10th Floor  
Ext 1148  
dated 29 Jan

India to 1507

Last Paper

E 9453/49/G  
1947

(Minutes)

23. 17/11

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

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*AW 19*

(Index)

*WJH*

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*Letter 7*  
*E 360*

Commonwealth Relations Office,  
Downing Street,  
London, S.W.1.

TOP SECRET  
Ext.11/43

2nd January, 1948.

*Dear Burrows,*

I enclose three copies of a telegram from our High Commissioner in India with a message which we are asked to pass on to you from the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem.

In a separate top secret telegram from Symon to Carter it is clear that the source of this report is Sir Zafrullah Khan, and the report reached our High Commissioner from the Nawab of Bhopal.

We are passing this message on as it stands, but you will see that the High Commissioner does not venture an opinion as to its value. We leave it to you whether or not to pass a copy to the Colonial Office.

*Yours sincerely*  
*W. Donaldson*

B.A.B. Burrows, Esq.,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

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(This is an unparaphrased version of a Secret cypher message and unless it is marked O.T.P. (One Time Pad) the text must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British and United States Government Services.)

# INWARD TELEGRAM

ALLOTTED TO EXTERNAL DEPARTMENT

CYPHER (TYPEX)

R.D.

FROM: INDIA (H.C.)

TO: COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE

D. N. Delhi 27th Dec., 1947 2.30 p.m.  
R. 27th Dec., 1947 11.20 a.m.

IMPORTANT

No. 1507

We have learned indirectly from an important and well placed source who does not wish his name to be divulged that the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem indicated very recently that he wished a message to be sent to the British Foreign Office to the effect that he wanted to be friends with the British and that there should be no residue of bitterness from his struggle against them. Please pass above to Foreign Office for what it may be worth.

Copies to Foreign Office.

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10921  
26 JAN 1948 9

PALESTINE

1940

Registry Number E1272/3/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Whathan  
No. 10001  
Dated 11/10/47  
Received in Registry 3 Dec 47  
11 Jan 48  
21 -

*Notes of the staff:  
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Last Paper.

360

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(Action completed.)

J. L. 28/1

(Initials)

26/1/48

Next Paper.

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En Clair  
(by confidential bag)

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

26 JAN 1948

Mr. Houstoun Boswall.  
No. 3. Saving.

11th January 1948.

R.2.30. p.m. 24th January  
1948.

Repeated to Damascus No. 2. Saving.  
 Cairo No. 1. "  
 B.M.E.O. No. 1. "  
 Bagdad No. 1. "  
 Amman No. 2. "  
 Jedda No. 1. "  
 Jerusalem No. 1. "

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 3. Saving of 11th  
 January repeated to Damascus, Cairo, B.M.E.O., Bagdad,  
 Amman, Jedda, Jerusalem, all saving.

Palestine.

Having seen in the press reports to the effect that  
 a national administration for Palestine under the Mufti  
 was to be established at Sidon I caused the President of  
 the Republic to be warned of the dangers involved, calling  
 on my experience of the Mufti's intervention in the  
 internal affairs of Iraq and suggesting that tolerance  
 here of the presence of any form of "government" under  
 him would by irritating Iraqis seriously impair the  
 Lebanon's unique position of aloofness from jealousies  
 affecting inter-Arab relations.

2. I today received an assurance that the President  
 had decided not allow any such development.

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E 3644

19 MAR 1948

12

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION.

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Sir R. Campbell.  
No. 386. D. 4.55 p.m. 17th March 1948.  
17th March 1948. R. 7.22 p.m. 17th March 1948.

SECRET.

Addressed to Jerusalem telegram No. 32 of March 17th, repeated to Foreign Office, Bagdad, Beirut, Damascus, Amman, Jedda and United Kingdom Delegation New York.

N.T.  
Your telegram No. 43: Mufti's movements.

Member of my staff took up this question with Director of Political Division of Ministry of Foreign Affairs last week. Director now reports that Minister for Foreign Affairs has undertaken to take appropriate measures to keep the Mufti out of Palestine.

Foreign Office please pass to United Kingdom Delegation New York as my telegram No. 3.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York.]

W: : : : W

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E

E 7836

1948

11 JUN 1948

13

Registry Number E7836/3/31

FROM

No. Sir. Ronald Campbell CAIRO

Dated 284

Received in Registry 4th June 11th "

Activities of the Ex-Mufti.

Text of discussion with a Senior Official of the Palace about the Ex-Mufti. The Official made two specific points in support of the fact that although King Farouk had offered the Mufti the hospitality of Egypt during his exile, he was not supporting him now.

Last Paper

5093

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

*[Handwritten signature]*

(Index)

*[Handwritten signature]*

Next Paper

E 9092

(Minutes.)

I should say that King Farouk was guided in this matter above all by solicitude for his own personal prestige.

The Mufti's decline is confirmed from all sides. But may he not come into his own again if the time, already no doubt unpopular with the ill-informed Arab masses, is followed by an unpopular settlement.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
11/6

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Egypt 11/6

The signs of U.S. - Egyptian rapprochement may also be connected with this - a possibility Egyptian desire to retain Gaza.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
12/6

*[Handwritten signature]*

13/6

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/LMB.

No. 284 ✓  
(253/5/48)

E 7836

BRITISH EMBASSY, 14

CAIRO.

11 JUN 1948

4th June, 1948.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

A senior official of the Palace who has asked that his name should not be mentioned in this connection, recently spoke to me about the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem and said that the fact that King Farouk had offered the Mufti the hospitality of Egypt during his exile did not mean that he was supporting him now. There were two specific points of evidence in support of this: (i) the Mufti had wished to form a provisional Arab Government of Palestine, even before the termination of the Mandate, which was to assume authority on the 15th May, but King Farouk had prevented this; (ii) the Mufti had wished to enter Palestine by way of Gaza along the Egyptian Army's line of communications. King Farouk had turned this down too, as he thought that such an entry into Palestine by the Mufti would give the impression that the Mufti had official Egyptian support, which was not the case. The Mufti was now in the Lebanon.

2. There is reason to suppose that the above may have been conveyed to me on the specific instructions of King Farouk. It may be that His Majesty now realises that the ex-Mufti has done more harm to the Arab cause than any one man and has lost a great part of his former prestige in Palestine itself and in the Arab world generally. King Farouk may no doubt have wished me to know (and to inform you) that this realisation had grown upon him. If that be so, it is an acceptable, though belated, change in the attitude adopted by His Majesty when the ex-Mufti threw himself on his hospitality two years ago.

3. King Farouk's claim to have prevented the ex-Mufti from forming a provisional Arab Government of Palestine is interesting in the light of paragraph 1 of your telegram No. 418 to Amman of 23rd May. It is of course a matter for speculation what motive prompted King Farouk to dissuade the ex-Mufti from such a step; it may conceivably have been His Majesty's sense of the futility of encouraging or acquiescing in a bid by the ex-Mufti to rehabilitate himself in the Arab world, or it may have been His Majesty's interpretation of our advice to the various Arab Governments before May 15th against initiating any direct or precipitate action in Palestine. If the latter supposition is correct it might be awkward for me to sound King Farouk or the Egyptian Government on the lines suggested in your telegram referred to above since to do so might invite a rejoinder to the effect that in deference to our known disapproval of the ex-Mufti and to our advice against direct or precipitate action the ex-Mufti's plan to set up a provisional Government in Palestine had been prevented by His Majesty.

4. I am sending copies of this despatch to His Majesty's Representatives at Baghdad, Beirut, Damascus, Amman, Jerusalem, Jeddah and Washington, and to the British Middle East Office.

I have the honour to be,  
With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

The Right Honourable  
Ernest Bevin, M.P.,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

*Ronald Campbell*

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Registry Number } E9692/5/31

FROM JERUSALEM  
(Mr Beaumont)  
No. 50/48

Dated 6 Jul 48

Received in Registry } 19 Jul 48

Extract from Palestine Post of 2 Jul headed "Clayton helped Mufti escape".

Encloses extract which reports on how Brigadier Clayton helped the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin el Hussein, to flee from France in July 1946. The announcement was first made by Jerusalem radio on 1 July. The information is said to have been uncovered in a letter captured from Izhak Darwish to Emile Ghoury. The letter may have come from Arab Higher Committee office or Ghoury's house, both of which are in areas occupied by Jewish forces.

Copy being sent to B.M.E.O. Cairo.

Last Paper

E9836

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8. W.O.  
July 21

(Action completed)

(Index)

pp  
July 26/7  
22/1/48

Next Paper

10003

Qty. W.O.

(Minutes.)

James Thié Kill. 20: vii

Brig. Clayton will no doubt comment.

D. Balfour  
2/7

It hardly seems necessary

Resent Dept  
N.H.

H.B. 207

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(50/48.)

British Consulate-General,  
Jerusalem.

July 6th. 1948.

9692

RECEIVED IN C.B.F.

16 JUL 1948

SENT TO DEPT.

16

Dear Department,

We enclose an extract from the Palestine Post of July 2nd. headed "Clayton Helped Mufti Escape."

2. If any letter from Ishak Darwish to Emile Ghoury has fallen into Jewish hands it may well have come from the Arab Higher Committee office or Ghory's house, both of which are in areas occupied by Jewish forces.
3. We are sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure to B.M.E.O.

Yours ever,

Jerusalem Consulate-General.

*M.B.*

Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
London.

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CLAYTON HELPED MUFTI ESCAPE.

"It was with the help of Brigadier Clayton, British adviser on Arab affairs, that the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin el Hussein, fled from France in July, 1946, the Jerusalem radio announced in its Arabic broadcast last night.

"The information was uncovered in a letter captured from Izhak Darwish, a leader of the 1936-39 rebellion and aide to the ex-Mufti in Paris, to Emile Ghoury, close associate of Hussein, in Jerusalem. The letter dated December 19, 1945, asked Ghoury to thank Clayton for his aid in planning the flight to the Middle East which actually took place six months later.

"Ghoury was asked to go to Cairo to see Clayton, and he was told he could speak freely with the Brigadier about the plan.

"The letter warned Ghoury to make sure that his companions on the trip are not of those 'who pose as the Mufti's friends while in reality they are against him."

Extracted from Palestine Post, July 2nd. 1948.

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E

18

10003

Registry Number E10003/3/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Sir, High Dow  
No. JERUSALEM  
317

Dated 25th July  
Received in Registry 26th "

Possibility that the Mufti may shortly turn up in Palestine.

Former A.G. District Office at Bethlehem, informs that the Mufti is expected in Palestine within the next few days.

This does not correspond with the line that King Farouk was reported to be taking in Cairo despatch No. 28, dated 4th June (E7836/3/31).

As the possibility cannot however be excluded, Sir High Dow asks agreement of Foreign Office that H.M. Ambassador Cairo make enquiries into the possibility of the Mufti's return and make representations to the Egyptian Government to prevent it.

Last Paper.

9692

References.

(How any...)

9. P. line dist  
40 31000 July 27

(Action complete)

PP  
Vall 1/8

Next Paper.

10221

Para 3.

Kennell 26:vii

I am doubtful whether we should make representations on this question. The part of Palestine to which it is suggested that the Mufti might go is under Egyptian military occupation, and we can hardly claim any right to intervene.

We might however connect this <sup>report</sup> ~~question~~ with the enquiries made in our telegram to Cairo no. 1267 (to which incidentally no replies have been received). We might suggest that the essential thing for the Arabs to do now is to establish an effective administration in the parts of Palestine they occupy, and that it would be wise to keep the Mufti quiet for the time being and let the committee appointed by the Arab League get on with the job.

H. Bealey 28/7

See also E10221.

4. 30:viii

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Cypher/21

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19

FROM JERUSALEM TO CAIRO 1948.

10003

His Majesty's Consul General.  
No. 317.

20th July, 1948. D. 8.55 p.m. 20th July, 1948.  
A. 11.55 p.m. 20th July, 1948.

Repeated to Cairo, Damascus, Beirut, P.M.A.C. Cairo and Aving  
to Amman, Teuda, Bagdad and Haifa.

URGENT.  
CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 317 of 20th  
July, repeated to Cairo, Damascus, Beirut, P.M.A.C. and  
Aving to Amman, Teuda, Bagdad and Haifa.

The former Arab District Officer at Bethlehem who is  
at present carrying on civil administration there under  
Egyptian forces, has informed me that the Mufti is expected  
in Palestine within the next few days.

1. This may well be a rumour put about by the  
Mufti's supporters to keep his memory green in the present  
avid circumstances, particularly since it does not correspond  
with the line that King Farouk was reported to be taking in  
Cairo despatch No. 284 of 4th June. If however the Mufti  
were to come to Palestine, it would probably be to the  
Egyptian sector, particularly since the Arab Legion have now  
withdrawn from both Hebron and Bethlehem. The possibility  
that he would try to come on to Jerusalem cannot be excluded.  
In any case his mere presence in the country would be enough  
to prejudice negotiations for the demilitarisation of Jerusalem,  
since he is reported to be as intransigent as ever.

2. I should be grateful therefore if you would agree  
to His Majesty's Ambassador Cairo making enquiries into the  
possibility of the Mufti's return and, if it appears likely,  
making representations to the Egyptian authorities to prevent  
or postpone it.

Cairo please pass P.M.A.C. Cairo as my telegram 57.

24 JUL 1948

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11

1948

E

20

PALESTINE

E 10221

Registry Number E10221/3/31

TELEGRAM FROM Sir. Ronald Campbell CAIRO

Dated 1118

Received in Registry 28th July 30st "

Activities of the Mufti.

Refers Jerusalem telegram No, 317 dated 25th July (E10003/3/31) It is reported by S.S.R. that ex-Mufti left Cairo for Angora on July 27th.

Last Paper.

10003

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. Picture sent Franky Aug 3 (u/c. E10243)

(Action completed.)

P. 4/5/8

(Ind.)

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

E 10606

(Minutes.)

I submit a draft along the lines of Mr BSELEY's minute on E.10003. Ian Rankin. 3.viii

Jas Baird Aug 3

I think in view of this tel. we can leave it alone.

[Handwritten signature] u.8

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8

Registry No. E 10221/4/31.

F.O.,

(Date)..... 21

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
Confidential.  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

Despatched.....M.

Draft.

[Security classification] CONFIDENTIAL  
if any

Telegram to :-

Addressed to Cairo

CAIRO

telegram No. (date)

No. ....

repeated for information to Jerusalem, Amman, Bagdad,

(Date) .....

Beirut, BMRO, Damascus, Haifa, Jeddah.

Repeat to :-

Jerusalem telegram No. 317: <sup>of July 25:</sup> Movements of

JERUSALEM,

the Mufti.]

AMMAN,

I do not feel that you <sup>need not</sup> ~~should~~ make

BAGDAD

representations as suggested in paragraph 3 of

BEIRUT

Jerusalem telegram under reference, <sup>more</sup> I note

DAMASCUS

<sup>from your</sup> especially in view of the fact reported in your

HAIFA <sup>saving</sup>

telegram No. 1118 that the Mufti <sup>is reported to have</sup> left Cairo and

JEDDA

we can hardly claim any right to intervene in, 2. You should however re-emphasise the need,

B.M.E.O.

to which I draw attention <sup>to you</sup> pointed out in my telegram No. 1267, for the

the question of whether or not he should visit the Egyptian-held parts of Palestine

Arabs to establish a really efficient civil

XXXXXX

administration in the parts of Palestine which

Cypher.

they ~~will~~ occupy, and In this connection it might

Distribution :-

be well to emphasise <sup>that</sup> should the Mufti return to

WORLD ORGANISATION

Egypt or turn up in the Egyptian-occupied part of

Palestine, ~~that~~ it would be advisable to keep

him as quiet as possible in order that the

Committee appointed by the Arab League should <sup>not</sup> be

able to get on with the job of establishing an

efficient administration.

Amman

3:00

JTS Beirut

Aug 4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

FORM W 4182/152 50000 12 47 U.S. G.W.L.D. Gp.685

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10221 22  
WORLD ORGANISATION  
DISTRIBUTION

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir R. Campbell  
No. 1118.  
July 28th, 1948.

D: 7.07.p.m. July 28th, 1948.  
R: 10.04.p.m. July 28th, 1948.

Repeated to Jerusalem and Angora and Savig to  
Damascus, Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Bagdad  
and Haifa.

Confidential.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 1118 of  
July 28th, repeated for information to Jerusalem, Angora,  
and Savig to Damascus, Beirut, Amman, Jedda, Bagdad  
and Haifa.

Jerusalem telegram No. 317 to Foreign Office.  
Ex Lufti.

It is reported by S.S.R. that ex-Lufti left Cairo  
for Angora on July 27th.

Foreign Office please pass Jerusalem as my telegram  
126.

[Repeated to Jerusalem].

---oCo---

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12

E

23

10606

Registry Number E10606/3/31

TELEGRAM FROM Mr. Broadhead No. DAMASCUS 393

Dated 9th Aug Received in Registry 11th "

Activities of the Ex-Mufti.

A Syrian has informed member of staff that the ex-Mufti had made contact with Minister to Syria who is now in Moscow and had agreed to join him in Russia for discussions. He was to travel "in the near future" to Turkey thence by an aircraft (Russian) to an unspecified destination.

Last Paper.

E 10221

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8. Plotter dist Aug 11

(Action completed.)

Index

9/21/9

Next Paper.

11311

(Minutes.)

Launce Plunkett. 11.viii

N. Dept.

We must watch out for this and perhaps ask for Moscow's comments in a week or two.

B. u. on 25.viii

D.B.

14/viii

Launce Plunkett. 27.viii

D. Bulfinch 22/8

off.

Northern Dept

[Handwritten signature]

I don't think there is much point in writing to Moscow. But I have sent a few lines of information from a reliable source to the Syrian Govt. have contacted [unclear].

See

611457/243/9

[Handwritten initials]

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Registry  
No. E. 10606.

26

Top Secret.  
~~Secret~~ **SECRET**  
Confidential  
Restricted  
Open

LT.

~~SECRET~~

Draft.

The Chancery Moscow.  
from  
E. Dept.

Dear Chancery,  
You will by now have seen  
DAMASCUS Telegrams No 393/d <sup>and 439</sup> <sup>and 284</sup> ~~of~~ the 9th August  
reporting ~~on~~ <sup>regarding</sup> a report that the  
MUFTI might be flying ~~to~~ via Turkey to  
Moscow for discussions there.

OK - but I felt  
that if the  
Russians get the  
Mufti to Moscow  
the Dept. of Int. Aff.  
will advertise  
the fact. Hence

Lance Russell,  
27: viii

n. Belfer  
27/8

We should be very grateful for  
any information about this projected trip  
wh: you may be able to pick up.  
We are sending a copy of this letter  
to Ankara, Damascus and Beirut.  
Yrs: Ever Eastern Dept.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(247) (19725) V.L. 11489-144 250m 547 G.S.S.R.

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10606

25

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Cypher/OTF

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION.

FROM DUBLIN TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Broadmead  
No. 393

D. 2.08 p.m. 9th August 1948  
R. 5.54 p.m. 9th August 1948

9th August 1948.

Repeated to Angora, Moscow and Beirut.

SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 393 of 9th August repeated for information to Angora, Moscow and Beirut.

Ex-Mufti of Jerusalem.

Syrian, some of whose more unlikely statements have in the past proved correct, has informed a member of my staff that ex-Mufti had made contact with Russian Minister to Syria who is now at Moscow and had agreed to join him in Russia for discussions. He was to travel "in the near future" to Turkey thence by a Russian aircraft to an unspecified destination.

Foreign Office please pass to Moscow as my telegram No. 1.

[Repeated to Moscow].

V V V

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1948

E

26

11311

EX-11311 A.

Registry Number E11311/3/31

TELEGRAM FROM

Mr. Dundas  
No. DAMASCUS  
439

Dated 26th Aug  
Received in Registry } 28th "

Possibility of the Mufti going to Russia for discussions.

Refers Damascus telegram No, 393 dated 9th Aug (E10606/3/31) Same source reports that Turkish authorities have refused the Mufti entry into Turkey. Asks whether there is any truth in this.

Last Paper.

E10606

(M notes.)

a letter to Moscow Embassy has been drafted. See E 10606

D.B.  
D. 27/8

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

30.

(Action completed.)

GEM 2/9

(Index.)

*[Signature]*

Next Paper.

E12208

32008 F.O.P.

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11311

27

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FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Dundas. D. 2.29 p.m. 26th August 1948.  
No. 459.

R. 4.28 p.m. 26th August 1948.  
26th August, 1948.

AND TO: Angora.

Repeated to Beirut,  
Moscow.

SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 459  
of 26th August, and Angora, repeated for  
information to Beirut, Moscow.

My telegram No. 393.

Ex-Mufti of Jerusalem.

The same source reports that the Turkish authorities have refused the ex-Mufti entry into Turkey. It would be useful to know whether there was any truth in this.

F.O. please pass to Moscow as my telegram 2.

----- [Repeated to Moscow]

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14

E

E

28  
12208

Registry Number E 12208/3/31

TELEGRAM FROM  
Mr. Dundas, Damascus  
No. 488.

Dated 17th Sept.

Received in Registry 20th

Syrians' attitude to the Mufti, and news of Fauzi

Refers to Mr. Burrows' letter to Sir J. Troutbeck of 3rd Sept.

Last Paper.

E 1134

References.

(Minutes.)

lance R. Kell. 22.11.48

B. H. B. 3

22.9

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Pre dist.  
Sept

(Action completed.)

CS 23/9

(Index)

26/11/48

Next Paper.

E 13773

32003 F.O.P.

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12208  
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Cypher /OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

29

FROM DISCOS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Dundas D. 12.30 p.m. 17th September, 1948  
No. 488  
17th September, 1948 R. 2.45 p.m. 17th September, 1948

Repeated to Jeddah ) Not Priority  
Bagdad )  
Amman )  
Cairo ) Saving  
B.M.F.O. Cairo )  
Beirut )  
Jerusalem )

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 488 of 17th September, repeated Saving to Jeddah, Bagdad, Amman, Cairo, Beirut, Jerusalem and British Middle East Office Cairo.

Following for Mr. Burrows.

Your personal letter to Mr. Troutbeck of 3rd September.

Mr. Mufti of Jerusalem.

The Mufti can still count on a measure of support from Syrian President who is probably afraid of the Mufti's ability to create trouble for Syrian Government if he does not receive such support. The head of the Syrian Ikhwan Al Muslimin seems to have recently put the organisation partly at least at the disposal of the Mufti (see monthly political summary 6 paragraph 8). For the past few months however the Mufti has largely dropped out of the public eyes.

2. Fauzi [grp undec] is still operating guerrilla bands on a small scale inside Palestine but he does not seem to be receiving as much support from Syrian Government as previously (i.e. when Ahmed Sharabati was the Minister of Defence). He, like the Mufti, is probably being support [? grp omitted] because of his nuisance value should he turn against the present Syrian régime.

3. Various unsuccessful attempts have been made by the Syrian President to bring a reconciliation between Fauzi and the Mufti.

[Copy sent to Mr. Burrows].

PPP

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**E**  
EASTERN DEPARTMENT

**E** 13773 30

1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E13773/3/31

FROM  
Mr. A. L. Mayall  
CAIRO to E Dept.  
No. 253/8/48  
Dated **SECRET** 20th Oct  
Received in Registry } 25th "

Suggestion on behalf of the Mufti, that if His Majesty's Government supply him now with funds he would be prepared to give the same sort of footing to His Majesty's Government in Palestine as they now had in Transjordan, he would sign a treaty to this effect.

Last Paper

E12208

(Minutes.)

References

HB. 14/12  
Mr. Bealey (on return)

Lance THIRKELL 27.X.  
D. Bealey 28/X

He must be short of cash.

W. H. Bealey

29 X

W. H. Bealey

29.10

W. H. Bealey

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

G. L. Bealey 20/12

[Signature]

Next Paper

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/H.



BRITISH EMBASSY,

CAIRO.

20th October, 1948. *31 E.M.*

No. 253/3/48.

SECRET.

13773

Dear Department,

Maitre Abet, a Greek lawyer of local origin, told the Oriental Counsellor at a luncheon party the other day, that a Greek Orthodox Palestinian who was a very close friend of the Mufti, had approached the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Alexandria with the suggestion that if we were prepared to supply the Mufti with funds, we could definitely get him to play ball with us, and that eventually he would be prepared to give us in Arab Palestine the same sort of footing as we had in Transjordan, and sign a treaty to that effect. According to Maitre Abet the Patriarch had taken the trouble to phone to him about this from Alexandria in case we might be interested. Ravensdale told Maitre Abet that we were most definitely not interested in having any dealings at all with the Mufti. A similar approach was made to Chapman-Andrews through a third party, and cold water was poured on this too.

Nevertheless, it is interesting to have this indication that the Mufti is now ready to offer his services to us at a price.

Yours ever,

*A. L. Murray*

Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
LONDON, S. W. 1.

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